

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 10, 13-15, 18, 19, and 26-28 are all of the claims presently pending.
Claims 2, 3, 7-9, 11, 12, 16, 17, and 20-25 are canceled.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner Do for taking time from his busy schedule to conduct a telephone interview on May 8, 2007, with Applicants' representative. During this telephone interview, Examiner Do indicated a willingness to allow claim 1 if amended to incorporate claims 2, 7, and 8, to allow claim 10 if amended to incorporate claims 11 and 12, and to allow claim 18 if amended to incorporate claims 20 and 24, if claims 15-17, 21, and 23 were canceled.

In response, although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's implied position on allowability and may file a continuation application to more clearly define the Examiner's position, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants submit the claim amendments above and believe that all remaining claims are now allowable. It is noted that, rather than canceling claim 15, this claim has been reworded to become a "Beauregard claim" for the method defined in independent claim 1.

It is noted that Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claims or of the claims canceled for purpose of expediting prosecution of these claims indicated as being allowable.

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-3, 7-17, 21-23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,601,080 to Garg. Claims 4-6, 18-20, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Garg, further in view of non-patent literature by Philip Alpatov, et al.

Applicants believe that the above claim amendments render these rejections moot.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-6, 10, 13-15, 18, 19, and 26-28, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the

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above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview, using Applicants' representative's direct number (703) 761-2377 or the general number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,



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